

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SOE-02 AF-10

ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02

PA-01 DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-11 NRC-05

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P 281448Z APR 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8995

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 06460

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM UR US

SUBJECT: US-USSR CW NEGOTIATIONS, ROUND SEVEN: SIXTEENTH
PLENARY MEETING, APRIL 26, 1978

CW MESSAGE NO.48

1. SUMMARY: AT FINAL (SIXTEENTH) PLENARY MEETING OF ROUND SEVEN AMB FISHER (HEAD OF US DEL) OUTLINED THE US PERCEPTION OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS GIVEN VERIFICATION ISSUES ESPECIALLY TO THE NEED TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES OF AGREED ON-SITE INSPECTION FOR DISPOSITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND FOR DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKS. IN A BRIEF EXTEMPORANEOUS STATEMENT AMB LIKHATCHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) CALLED UPON THE US TO DROP ITS INSISTENCE ON SUCH MEASURES. A DISCUSSION OF THE DATE FOR BEGINNING OF ROUND EIGHT WAS INCONCLUSIVE. END SUMMARY.

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2. SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING WAS HELD THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 26, 1978. AMB ADRIAN FISHER (HEAD OF US DEL) PRESENTED A GENERAL STATEMENT REVIEWING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ROUND SEVEN AND SUMMARIZING THE PROBLEMS WHICH REMAIN TO BE SOLVED. SALIENT POINTS ARE SUMMARIZED IN PARAS 3-5 BELOW.

3. SCOPE OF THE PROHIBITION. FISHER SAID THAT IN THE AREA OF SCOPE THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES APPEAR TO COINCIDE ON ALMOST ALL POINTS OF PRINCIPLE. THE MAIN UNRESOLVED POINTS IN THIS AREA ARE: PROHIBITION OF SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES NOT RELATED TO CHEMICAL WARFARE, DESTRUCTION OF ALL COMBAT DELIVERY DEVICES, A FIVE-YEAR LIMIT ON USE OF LIVE AGENTS IN FIELD EXERCISES (FOLLOWED BY A REVIEW TO SEE IF CONTINUED USE SHOULD BE ALLOWED), AND A BAN ON TRANSFER OF SUCH SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS BETWEEN A PARTY AND A NON-PARTY.

4. DECLARATIONS. FISHER ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE US PROPOSAL FOR A GENERAL DECLARATION OF STOCKS AT THE TIME OF SIGNATURE OF THE CONVENTION. HE NOTED THAT BOTH SIDES NOW AGREED ON THE TIMING OF THE DETAILED DECLARATION OF STOCKS, ON THE APPROACH IN PRINCIPLE TO DETERMINING PERMITTED AMOUNTS OF CHEMICALS FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES, AND ON DRAWING UP LISTS OF "IMPORTANT" PRECURSORS AND "IMPORTANT" COMMERCIAL LETHAL SUBSTANCES. SAYING THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE DECLARATION OF THE PRODUCTION BASE FOR MEANS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE, FISHER STRESSED THAT US WAS STILL WAITING FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE SOVIET POSITION.

5. VERIFICATION.

A. FISHER SAID THE REAL TEST IN THIS AREA IS WHETHER A CONFIDENTIAL

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MEASURE CAN GIVE ADEQUATE ASSURANCE TO OTHER STATES PARTIES THAT THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION ARE BEING COMPLIED WITH. THE US AGREES THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PROVISION REQUIRING STATES PARTIES TO TAKE NECESSARY DOMESTIC MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE SUCH MEASURES WOULD PROVIDE ASSURANCE THAT THE PARTY ITSELF WOULD FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION. FISHER OBJECTED TO THE SOVIET DRAFT PROVISION ALLOWING A STATE TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF CONTROL, SAYING THAT SUCH A PROVISION WAS UNNECESSARY AND COULD CAST DOUBT ON SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF STATE TO ESTABLISH WHATEVER DOMESTIC BODIES IT WANTED TO.

B. FISHER STATED THAT US WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A PROVISION REFERRING TO USE OF NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION. HE ALSO NOTED THE CONSTRUCTIVE SOVIET REACTION TO THE US PROPOSAL CONCERNING EXPLANATION OF A REFUSAL TO ALLOW A CHALLENGE INSPECTION.

C. FISHER REITERATED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE US ATTACHES TO INTERNATIONAL ON-SITE VERIFICATION OF THE

DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKS. REFERRING TO THE RECENT STATEMENT BY THE SOVIETS THAT THEY WERE STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF DESTROYING STOCKS AT SPECIALIZED FACILITIES, HE SAID THAT THIS WAS AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE US ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ON-SITE VERIFICATION OF THE DISPOSITION OF FACILITIES. HE SAID THAT THIS ISSUE WILL POSE A SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO A JOINT INITIATIVE UNLESS THE SOVIET SIDE IS PREPARED TO RESPOND TO US REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE SOVIET POSITION ON "CAPABILITIES" AND IS WILLING TO JOIN IN A SEARCH FOR A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION.

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6. IN A BRIEF EXTEMPORANEOUS RESPONSE TO FISHER'S STATEMENT, AMB LIKHATCHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) SAID THAT THE

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/164 W

-----090795 281525Z /45

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 06460

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ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROUND SEVEN WERE PERHAPS GREATER THAN THOSE OF PREVIOUS ROUNDS. HE REQUESTED THE US DEL TO STUDY "IN GREATER DEPTH" SOVIET PROPOSALS ON VERIFICATION, AND NOT TO CONTINUE TO STRESS MEASURES WHICH COULD INTERFERE IN A STATE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DAMAGE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE MEASURES WHICH COULD HAVE SUCH CONSEQUENCES WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE.

7. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER MEETINGS IN ROUND SEVEN. SINCE THE JOINT US-USSR STATEMENT ON THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION AND FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARANCES, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE END OF THE ROUND WOULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL THE CURRENT CCD SESSION ENDS EARLY IN MAY.

8. THE SOVIETS SUGGESTED THAT ROUND EIGHT BEGIN THE
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SECOND HALF OF AUGUST OR EARLY IN SEPTEMBER. THE US DEL PROPOSED JULY 26. IT WAS AGREED THAT A TENTATIVE DATE SHOULD BE AGREED UPON BEFORE THE CCD ADJOURNS. HOWEVER, TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE CRITICISM, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TWO SIDES WOULD STATE PUBLICLY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE RESUMED ON A DATE TO BE AGREED UPON. (COMMENT: BASED ON INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS COULD ACCEPT ANY DATE IN AUGUST. WE PLAN TO SUGGEST AUGUST 2. END COMMENT.) VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHEMICAL WARFARE, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA06460
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780182-0395
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978046/aaaaaenw.tel
Line Count: 202
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 326ca1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2977247
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR CW NEGOTIATIONS, ROUND SEVEN: SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING, APRIL 26, 1978 CW MESSAGE NO.48
TAGS: PARM, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/326ca1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014